(b) to (d) A Scheme of 'Post-Matric Scholarships to the OBC students' is already being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to promote higher education amongst the OBC students at the post-matric/post-secondary levels including Ph. D. degrees etc. These Scholarships are awarded through the State Government/UT Administration and 100% assistance is provided to them, over and above their committed liability, by the Central Government in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Grading of universities and colleges

1360. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to grade universities colleges; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The National Assessment & Accreditation Council (NAAC) has been set up in 1994 under Section 12CCC of UGC Act, 1956 for assessment and accreditation of Higher Education Institutions in the country. So far, the NAAC has assessed and accredited 131 Universities and 3074 Colleges details with regard to which is available on the website www. naacindia. org.

Setting up of an IIT at Medak, Andhra Pradesh

1361. DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRI S. ANBALAGAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the light of the proposed location of IIT at Medak, Andhra Pradesh, there has been a mixed reaction with more and more of reservation and objection for such location; and

(b) the parameters or principles in selecting places for location of new IITs and IIMs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Government of India has decided to set up an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Andhra Pradesh. The State Government has been asked to allot land, free of cost, at a suitable location, having necessary physical and social infrastructure, for this purpose. The State Government has informed the Ministry, that they are in the process of identifying suitable land for the purpose.

Astrology in universities

1362. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the universities where astrology is a subject in curriculum; and

(b) whether Government would consider to scrap astrology from curriculum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) According to the information furnished by University Grants Commission, a Scheme of setting up of Department of Jyotir Vigyan in Universities was introduced in the Ninth Plan period in the year 2000-01. A total of 20 Universities were selected under the Scheme.

However, this Scheme is not in operation during the Tenth Plan period.

(b) Does not arise.

Capability of higher educational institutions

1363. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the most pressing problem in the higher education sector is not the shortage in the number of institutions, but those already established are not capable of functioning as centres of higher learning;